

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2016

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop,

We write regarding the draft bill, the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA). We appreciate your leadership and the committee's hard work and time in developing PROMESA, but we are concerned with the bill's narrow focus and its applicability to our jurisdictions without addressing the underlying challenges that contributed to Puerto Rico's debt crisis, but that each of our territories also experience.

We are concerned that the bill does not address crucial underlying issues—such as Medicaid, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and government pensions—that contributed to Puerto Rico's debt crisis but also pose significant challenges to each of our jurisdictions. We do not believe that extending the authorities proposed in PROMESA without solving these other challenges will produce the intended result of stabilizing Puerto Rico's economy or providing a more secure financial footing for all territories.

We share your goal of assisting Puerto Rico and stabilizing its economy. We believe that there is potential for PROMESA and other legislative proposals to achieve this, as well as to address some of the underlying and systemic challenges that contributed to Puerto Rico's current financial instability but are experienced in all the territories. We hope the committee will include provisions or additional legislation that solves these challenges and gives parity in Medicaid and the Earned Income Tax Credit to Americans who live in our jurisdictions. We also hope that the committee will consider other proposals that we have made to proactively address these systemic challenges. Not resolving these challenges leaves the territories vulnerable to the elements that contributed to Puerto Rico's fiscal crisis.

We reiterate our support for your efforts to assist Puerto Rico in their financial crisis. We appreciate your leadership in ensuring that Congress provides them with much needed assistance to develop a more stable and financially secure economy. We hope that Congress will also assist Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

Sincerely,


MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress


GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN
Member of Congress


AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN
Member of Congress


STACEY E. PLASKETT
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural Resources